DRAWINGS

The drawings filed 12/19/2001 are accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dr. Roberte Makowski on 2/26/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 11 was replaced by the following:

-- 11. A method for preparing a pelletized feedstuff composition, which comprises pelletizing a mixture of animal feed constituents and a coated enzyme-containing granulate suitable for use in animal feed, wherein the enzyme-containing granulate comprises a mixture of at least one enzyme and a solid support suitable for feedstuffs, wherein the solid support is a low-molecular-weight inorganic or organic compound selected from inorganic salts or sugars, wherein the enzyme-containing granulate is coated with an organic polymer which is suitable for feedstuffs selected from the group consisting of:

a) polyalkylene glycols having a number average molecular weight of from 400 to 15,000;

b) polyalkylene oxide polymers or copolymers having a number average molecular weight of from 4000, to 20,000;

c) polyvinylpyrrolidone having a number average molecular weight from 7000 to 1,000,000;

d) vinylpyrrolidone/vinylacetate copolymers having a number average molecular weight from 30,000 to 100,000;

e) polyvinyl alcohol having a number average molecular weight from 20,000 to 100,000;

f) hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose having a number average molecular weight from 6,000 to 80,000;

g) alkyl (meth)acrylate polymers and copolymers having a number average of molecular weight from 100,000 to 1,000,000; and

h) polyvinyl acetate having a number average molecular weight from 250,000 to 700,000,

to obtain a pelletized feedstuff composition, and wherein the coated enzyme-containing granulate has a pelleting stability greater than an uncoated enzyme-containing granulate. --

Claim 13 was replaced by the following:

-- 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the enzyme-containing granulate comprises at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, lyases, isomerases, ligases, phosphatases and hydrolases. --

Claim 17 was replaced by the following:

-- 17. A pelleted feedstuff composition which comprises at least one enzyme-containing granulate suitable for use in animal feed, wherein said granulate comprises a mixture of at least one enzyme and a solid support suitable for feedstuffs, wherein the solid support is a low-molecular-weight inorganic or organic compound selected from inorganic salts or sugars, wherein the enzyme-containing granulate is coated with an organic polymer which is suitable for feedstuffs and selected from the group consisting of:

a) polyalkylene glycols having a number average molecular weight from 400 to 15,000;

b) polyalkylene oxide polymers or copolymers having a number average molecular weight from 4000 to 20,000;

c) polyvinylpyrrolidone having a number average molecular weight from 7000 to 1,000,000;

d) vinylpyrrolidone/vinylacetate copolymers having a number average molecular weight from 30,000 to 100,000;

e) polyvinyl alcohol having a number average molecular weight from 20,000 to 100,000;

f) hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose having a number average molecular weight from 6000 to 80,000;

g) alkyl (meth)acrylate polymers and copolymers having a number average molecular weight from 100,000 to 1,000,000; and

h) polyvinyl acetate having a number average molecular weight from 250,000 to 700,000,

and wherein the enzyme-containing granulate has a pelleting stability greater than an uncoated enzyme-containing granulate. --

Claim 21 was replaced by the following:

-- 21. The process of claim 11, wherein the temperature during the coating process is from about 35 to 50°C. --

Claim 23 was replaced by the following:

-- 23. The method of claim 11, wherein the coating is in the range from about 3 to 25% by weight of the total weight of the granulate. --

Claims 29-31 were replaced by the following:

-- 29. The process of claim 11, wherein the temperature during the pelletizing process is in the range from about 60 to 100° C.

30. The method of claim 11, wherein the solid support is a low-molecular weight inorganic or organic compound selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, calcium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, glucose, fructose, and sucrose.

31. The composition of claim 17, wherein the solid support is a low-molecular weight inorganic or organic compound selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, calcium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, glucose, fructose, and sucrose. --

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUSAN HANLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-2508. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Susan Hanley/
Examiner, Art Unit 1651

/Irene Marx/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1651